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Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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BRANDON CASEY,
MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

June 13, 2018

Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and CEO
Facebook
1601 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

We write to request more information on Facebook, Inc.'s recently announced policy of collecting the last four digits of political advertisers' Social Security numbers (SSN). We support efforts to ensure the integrity of social media platforms. However, as the Committee with jurisdiction over the SSN, and given bipartisan concerns about the problem of identity theft, including the risk associated with SSNs being stolen, it is important for us to understand how these important numbers will be used and how they will be protected.

As highlighted at the Social Security Subcommittee's May 17, 2018, hearing on the future of the SSN, the continued use of SSNs as authenticators is both ineffective and dangerous. Authenticators based on personal information only work if that information is kept private, but hundreds of millions of SSNs are effectively no longer confidential because of massive data breaches and availability on the dark web. At the same time, the continued use of SSNs as either an identifier or an authenticator (or both) for everything from enrolling a child in school to creating a credit record is what makes them so valuable to identity thieves and cybercriminals.

To help us understand Facebook's use of this valuable personal information, please respond to the following:

1. What is the intended purpose of Facebook's collection of SSN information?
2. Since SSNs are associated with individuals and not organizations, whose SSN information do you collect when an organization seeks to place a political advertisement?
3. How does Facebook use this information to verify an advertiser's identity? Does Facebook verify the authenticity of the collected SSN information?
4. Is this information transmitted to any third parties? If so, why?

5. How does Facebook ensure the security of the SSN information it receives?
6. How does Facebook ensure the SSN information is properly disposed of following use?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. We ask that you respond by no later than July 11, and carefully consider whether this policy is appropriate. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Amy Shuart, the Social Security Subcommittee Majority Staff Director, at (202) 225-9263, and Kathryn Olson, the Social Security Subcommittee Minority Staff Director, at (202) 225-4021.

Sincerely,



Sam Johnson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Social Security
Committee on Ways and Means



John B. Larson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Social Security
Committee on Ways and Means



Devin Nunes
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Earl Blumenauer
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Vern Buchanan
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



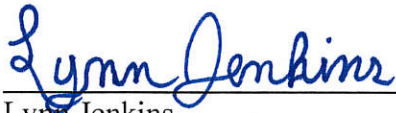
Bill Pascrell
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



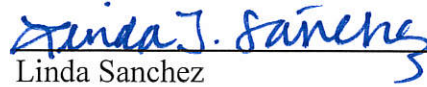
Adrian Smith
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Danny K. Davis
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Lynn Jenkins
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



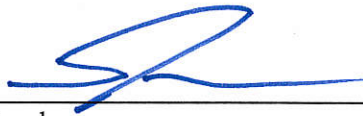
Linda Sanchez
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



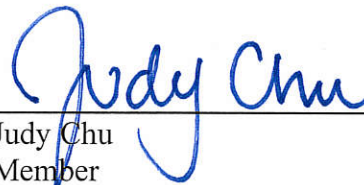
Diane Black
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



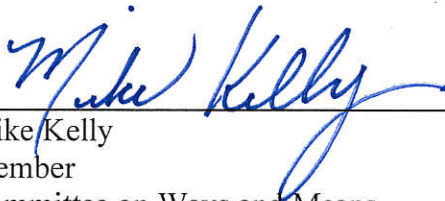
Terri Sewell
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



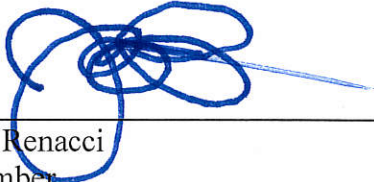
Tom Reed
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Judy Chu
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



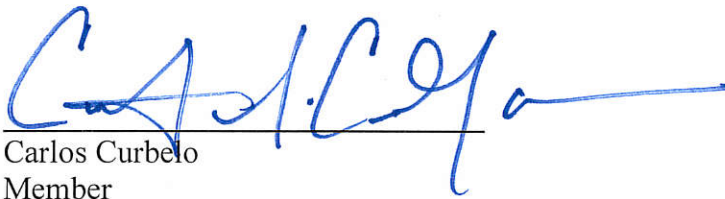
Mike Kelly
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Jim Renacci
Member
Committee on Ways and Means



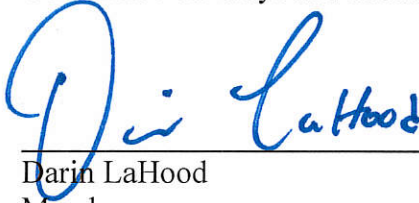
Tom Rice
Member
Committee on Ways and Means

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Carlos Curbelo
Member
Committee on Ways and Means

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Bishop', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Bishop
Member
Committee on Ways and Means

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darin LaHood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darin LaHood
Member
Committee on Ways and Means